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SUNDAY DECEMBER 17 2017

\$3



Star-Telegram

SUNDAY

Trump: Under tax plan, economy will ‘rock’

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Closing in on the first major legislative achievement of his term, President Donald Trump on Saturday defended the Republican tax cut as a good deal for the middle class while boldly suggesting it could lead to explosive economic growth.

The legislation, which the GOP aims to muscle through Congress next week, would lower taxes on the richest Americans. Benefits for most other taxpayers would be smaller, but Trump attempted to sell the bill as a “Christmas present” for middle-class Americans in part because it would trigger job growth.

“It’ll be fantastic for the middle-income people and for jobs, most of all,” Trump told reporters on the White House lawn before traveling to Camp David

SEE TAXES, 18A

MORE INSIDE

Tax bill would upend one of the perks of home ownership **18A**



LOCAL & TEXAS

PICKING SPOT FOR SCHOOL GROWTH

The Fort Worth school board will meet Monday to discuss the planned location for a new campus in the Tanglewood area. **1B**



LOCAL & TEXAS

THE FACE OF TANDY VIDEOS

George Hurst retired in November, but his face lives on in hundreds of videos he produced for Fort Worth’s Tandy Leather. **1B**



Star-Telegram photo illustration

SEEING RED

231,319 red-light tickets were
issued in Fort Worth last year
— about half went unpaid

BY ANNA M. TINSLEY
[atinsley@star-telegram.com](#)

Texas drivers who blow through red lights — or turn right too quickly at them — have paid more than \$144 million to the state over the past decade.

And that’s just half the money. The other half goes to cities where the violation occurred.

Fort Worth is one of those cities, and it now has a target on its back.

Kelly Canon, who led a successful effort to have red light cameras shut off in Arlington two years ago, is now going after Fort Worth, which made \$2.44 million off the tickets in 2016.

“It is a blatant constitutional violation,” Canon said. “These cameras cannot prove you were the one driving the car at the time of the infraction. They can only take a picture and send it to the owner of the car.

“It goes against the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth amendments.”

Canon said she and others plan to spend six months gathering signatures on petitions — 20,000 or more — to persuade Fort Worth City Council members to put the issue on the November 2018 ballot and let voters decide whether the cameras that have been up since 2008 should stay.

Fort Worth City Manager David Cooke said the cameras aren’t designed to be a money-maker for the city.

“There’s a reason to have red light cameras,” he said. “It is to

make the city safer and to reduce accidents and collisions at intersections. “We think they are effective.”

He understands that there is opposition to the cameras locally and across the state.

“If petitions come to the city, I’m up for any good public policy debate that considers both sides of an argument,” he said.

After Fort Worth, the effort to remove red light cameras could shift to the Texas Legislature in 2019.

“The goal is to see them gone through the whole state,” Canon said.

In May 2015, Arlington voters opted to shut down the cameras, 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent.

Gov. Greg Abbott has said he supports letting cities decide whether they should have red-light cameras.

SEE RED LIGHTS, 10A

MORE INSIDE

In Fort Worth, not paying a red-light ticket is a civil violation **10A**

Government abused power to seize land for border fence

BY T. CHRISTIAN MILLER
(PROPUBLICA),
KIAH COLLIER
AND JULIAN AGUILAR
The Texas Tribune

First of a two-part series

BROWNSVILLE

The land agents started working the border between Texas and Mexico in the spring of 2007.

Sometimes they were from the Army Corps of Engineers. Other times the U.S. Border Patrol. They visited tumble-

down mobile homes and suburban houses with golf course views.

They delivered blunt news to ranchers and farmers, sheet metal workers and university professors, auto mechanics and wealthy developers: The federal government was going to build a fence to keep out drug smugglers and immigrants crossing into the United States illegally, they told property owners. The structure was



MARTIN DO NASCIMENTO The Texas Tribune

Juan Cavazos, 74, of Brownsville accepted \$21,500 for 2 acres. Neighbors who hired lawyers received much more.

SEE LAND GRAB, 5A

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